

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118236

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: US-CANADA ENERGY COOPERATION

REF: OTTAWA 1847

1. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF UTILITY OF EARLY, FULL-SCALE REVIEW OF BILATERAL ENERGY ISSUES WITH CANADA. ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY GILLESPIE SHOULD CERTAINLY APPEAR ON AGENDA OF SUCH MEETING. HOWEVER, WE WOULD ALSO WANT TO COVER OTHER TOPICS SUCH AS EXPECTED IMPACT IN CANADA OF PROPOSED OIL PRICE INCREASE ON CANADIAN DEMAND/SUPPLY AND EXPORTS AND NATURAL GAS EXPORT PRICE INCREASES, POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING PARAMETERS FOR OIL EXCHANGES BETWEEN NORTH-ERN TIER AND CANADIAN REFINERIES, ETC. FYI ONLY: DEPART-MENT IS DEVELOPING PROPOSAL ON LATTER ITEM WE INTEND TO PRESENT TO GOC. END FYI.

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2. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT USEFULNESS OF SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL MEETING WOULD BE CONSIDERABLY ENHANCED IF PRECEDED BY DETAILED PREPARATION AND EXCHANGES AT STAFF (OFFICE DIRECTOR) LEVEL. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO HOLD EARLY BILATERAL MEETING WITH GOC TO PREPARE FOR LATER HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE AND ARE PREPARED TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE CANADIAN OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON OR OTTAWA. BASED ON RESULTS OF THESE STAFF-LEVEL CONTACTS, DEPARTMENT WILL DETERMINE TIMING AND LEVEL OF FURTHER EXCHANGE ON BILATERAL ENERGY ISSUES.

3. FYI: WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT MINISTER GILLESPIE HAS BEEN INVITED TO EASTERN PREMIERS/NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS MEETING AT CHATHAM, MASS. JUNE 8 AND THAT FEA ADMINISTRATOR ZARB IS ALSO CONSIDERING ATTENDING. WE DOUBT THAT MEETING ON THIS OCCASION WOULD AFFORD SUFFICIENT TIME TO COVER TOPICS LISTED IN REFTEL AND IN PARA 1 ABOVE, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR REINFORCING USG OBJECTIVES. END FYI.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IF EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION, IT SHOULD EXPLORE CONCEPT OF STAFF-LEVEL MEETING WITH GOC AND ASCERTAIN WILLINGNESS TO UNDERTAKE SUCH TALKS WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.

5. QUESTION OF SEPARATE, EARLY POLICY LEVEL MEETING ON NATURAL GAS EXPORT PRICES WILL BE CONSIDERED FURTHER AFTER TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSION. ROBINSON

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